

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original): A closed loop postage metering system comprising:  
a meter provider infrastructure including a meter database;

a postal infrastructure in operative communication with the meter provider infrastructure, the postal infrastructure including equipment and processes for submission, processing, transporting and delivery of a mail piece;

a mailer system in operative communication with the meter provider infrastructure and the postal infrastructure, the mailer system including a postage meter, the postage meter accounting for and printing postage value for the mail piece and printing on the mail piece information identifying services requested for the mail piece;

wherein the postal infrastructure determines an adjusted postage value for the mail piece based on the occurrence of events related to the requested services during the processing the mail piece; and  
wherein the postal infrastructure sends the adjusted postage value to the meter for the meter to account for the adjusted postage value.

2. (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the meter provider infrastructure includes an events database and the postal infrastructure includes a planned events database and a transaction database used during the processing of the mail items.
3. (original): The system of claim 1 wherein the requested services are conditioned on the occurrence of at least one certain event.
4. (original): A method for processing mail items, the method comprising the steps of:

- creating a mail piece;
  - creating a list of planned events associated with the mail piece;
  - creating parameters and decision functions associated with the planned events;
  - printing on the mail piece by a postage meter mail piece information including a unique identification of the mail piece, evidence of postage payment identification of the postage meter and services requested for the mailpiece;
  - inducting the mail piece into a postal infrastructure;
  - scanning the mail piece to determine if one of the planned events has occurred;
  - if a planned event has occurred obtaining the mail piece information with sensors in the postal infrastructure, the mail piece information including identification of the postage meter; and
  - sending a message to the meter relating to the occurrence of the planned event, the message including the mail piece information.
5. (currently amended): The method of claim 34 comprising the further step of: accounting by the meter for the occurrence of the planned event.
6. (currently amended): The method of claim 34 comprising the further steps of: if a planned event has not occurred obtaining the mail piece information with sensors in the postal infrastructure, the mail piece information including identification of the postage meter;
- sending a message to the meter relating to the non-occurrence of the planned event; and
- accounting by the meter for the non-occurrence of the planned event.
7. (original): A method for managing postal workshare discounts, the method comprising the steps of:

prepare a batch of mail in a manner intended for the batch of mail to qualify  
for certain postal workshare discounts;  
applying at least one of a unique mail piece identification or unique batch  
identification on each mail piece in the batch of mail;  
inducting the batch of mail for postal processing;  
accounting in a meter for payment for the batch of mail based on an  
estimated workshare discount and submitting the payment;  
determining during the postal processing the actual workshare discount that  
the batch of mail is entitled to; and  
sending a correction discount amount to the meter to update the accounting  
in the meter.